

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

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PATENT NO. : 7,474,660
APPLICATION NO. : 09/283,125
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INVENTOR(S) : Bernie Paul Pearce

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In the Abstract (57), please amend as shown:

The invention solves the problem of maintaining Route-information Information Field (RIF) information in a router for populating the RIF field of packets routed by the router, by storing the RIF information with the Layer 2 address in the address binding table. The address binding table establishes a binding between a Layer 2 address and a Layer 3 address of a station. The Layer 2 address in the address binding table is extended to include the RIF information. The address binding table is normally maintained in the router in an architecture which permits rapid access for fast switching such as cut through routing. A separate RIF cache table, requiring a separate time consuming table look-up is thereby avoided. The address binding table is referred to as the Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) Table in IP protocol. The Layer 2 address is extended to include both MAC address and ~~REF~~ RIF information. The RIF information in the Layer 2 field of the ARP table is updated in response to execution of an ARP Explorer protocol by the router. RIF information is read from an ARP Explorer response packet and written into the Layer 2 field of the ARP table. The Layer 2 address, both MAC address and RIF information, is read from the ARP table for use in populating both the destination address field and the RIF field of a routed packet.

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